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October 26, 2016

Mr. Michael L. Connor
Deputy Secretary
United States Department of the Interior
1849 C Street
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Connor:

I am writing to follow-up on my correspondence to you earlier this year and the response that I received from the Department of the Interior's Office of the Solicitor. The exchange related to the two cancelled contracts between the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and CEMEX (CA-20139 and CA-22901).

It is my understanding that both the Bureau of Land Management and CEMEX have now submitted all of the required filings necessary for the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) to issue an administrative decision. As was noted in previous correspondence, I believe it is in the interest of all parties for IBLA to render a determination at the earliest opportunity. Any facilitation of that goal by you would be most appreciated.

Furthermore, the response to my March 2016 correspondence notes that the Department of the Interior will not likely be making any decisions regarding withdrawing the site from further mineral entry until the conclusion of the Interior Board of Land Appeals process. While this is a somewhat different response than from our conversation last spring prior to my introducing H.R. 4566, I recognize that the department does not wish to unduly burden the administrative process at this time.

I intend to reintroduce the legislation early in the next congressional session. The new bill will contain essentially the same language as HR. 4566 and will again include the caveat "subject to valid existing rights, if any" as to not improperly interfere with the two contracts that are the subject of the current IBLA process.

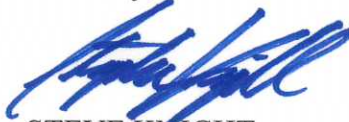
Since the contracts were first issued over a quarter century ago, the community's population has almost doubled. Studies that were either conducted by or participated in by the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management and United States Forest Service all recognize the ecological natural resource value of the Upper Santa Clara River area, in which the mine was

proposed to be located. Additionally, the declaration of the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument by President Obama in October 2014, places the new national monument directly adjacent to the former mining site. Clearly, a large-scale sand and gravel mine is incompatible with the land management and public use goals of the new national monument.

I encourage you to work with the Interior Board of Land Appeals to facilitate an administrative decision at the earliest opportunity and to lay the foundation necessary to withdraw the site that was the subject of the two contracts from further mineral entry.

Thank you for your consideration of my request. I look forward to continuing to work with you in bringing this matter to an expedient and satisfactory resolution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Knight", is written over the printed name.

STEVE KNIGHT
Member of Congress